

MI Child Support Formula - Child Support/Custody Changes in Michigan

From: <PASURANT@aol.com>
To: <MCSF@courts.mi.gov>
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Subject: Child Support/Custody Changes in Michigan

To Whom it may concern:

I am a forty year old father and non-custodial parent of a son who is a toddler born out of wedlock, unbeknown to me until the child was a year old. Despite the fact that I had not known the son's mother but weeks before his conception, I regard ALL of my responsibilities for our son very seriously and diligently. However, from the outset of my experience thus far with the Michigan Friend of the Court I regard the system just as flawed as has been stated by so many others. The recent articles in the Detroit Free Press succinctly describes the major problems that require immediate attention and changes. In view of this, I will only state my direct concerns as follows:

- 1) There is nearly nothing the same with current culture that was in place in the 1980s when the philosophy was used to formulate the equation for support. Times have changed.
- 2) Custody issues must be taken much more seriously than is being practiced today. The father's rights need dramatic redemption in many cases. I know of at least 3 of 4 situations where the child's best interest would be advanced if custody were granted to the father, not solely to the mother. With all due respect, the Court needs to look at situations in a much different light if more good, loving fathers are to succeed in custody matters. I believe that with a more fairer test the policy can be improved.
- 3) It is an absolute reality that noncustodial parents must receive some consideration for what he/she must provide their children when a son or daughter is spending time with them. A complete sliding scale for the number of days throughout the year should be in direct proportion to the number days the children reside with the noncustodial parent. (Mother or Father). This is the only sensible methodology that occurs to me on the subject of support. In reality there are many situations where one parent should indeed be the custodial parent of choice as ruled by the courts. Again custody is important to the child most of all, and fathers deserve better treatment than what we must currently endure in many cases.

Finally, just a few comments about the Detroit Newspapers recent article explaining how low income or near poverty custodial mothers fight for maintaining a monetary advantage by limiting overnights with a father. I agree that some fathers overnights should be limited just as some mothers time should be limited. Lets face it life can become too complex in some families and unpleasant things do happen. But despite those alarming number of instances why is the system in general so worked over by these mothers. Perhaps EVERYONE in these situations would take more responsibility for their actions up front if the financial aspects of having a baby were revised by the Supreme Court. I am holding up my utmost best but am terribly constrained by the court system as well as the mother. The process needs to be quickened for the best interest of families.

Thank you for your attention to these crucial issues.